DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 286 535 IR 052 150

| | |
|---|---|
| TITLE | The Library of Congress 1986. A Brief Summary of the Major Activities for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 1986. |
| INSTITUTION | Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. |
| PUB DATE | 87 |
| NOTE | 38p.; For the summary report for 1985, see ED 273 296; for the full report for 1986, see IR 052 149. Photographs may not reproduce well. |
| AVAILABLE FROM | Library of Congress, Central Services Division, Washington, DC 20540. |
| PUB TYPE | Reports - Descriptive (141) |
| EDRS PRICE | MF01/PC02 Plus Postage. |
| DESCRIPTORS | Annual Reports; *Library Administration; Library Automation; Library Collection Development; *Library Role; *Library Services; *National Libraries; Preservation |
| IDENTIFIERS | Copyright Office; *Library of Congress |

ABSTRACT

This booklet summarizes fiscal year 1986 activities of the Library of Congress (LC) in the following areas: (1) LC administration; (2) collection development; (3) activities of the Copyright Office; (4) housing the collections; (5) accessing the collections; (6) automation; (7) preservation; (8) services to Congress performed by the Congressional Research Service; (9) Law Library services; (10) responsibilities of the Assistant Librarian for National Programs; (11) providing information and services to visitors, including activities of the Visitors' Center, the Special Events Office, and the Information Office; (12) services of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; (13) public programs such as music performances, symposia, motion picture screenings, dramatic readings, and exhibits; (14) programs sponsored by the American Folklife Center; (15) activities of the Center for the Book; and (16) publications. Photographs accompany the text throughout the publication. (KM)

**********
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
**********

# The Library of Congress 1986

ED286535

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☒ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

IR052150

# The Library of Congress 1986

# The Library of Congress 1986

A Brief Summary of the Major Activities
for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 1986

Library of Congress Washington 1987

International Standard Serial Number 0162-6426

Prepared by the Information Office, Library of Congress

Available from the Library of Congress, Central Services Division, Washington, D.C. 20540

*Cover:*
*The Social Sciences Reading Room in the John Adams Building. Paul Jefferson, in foreground, is one of many readers and researchers who use its collections.*

## CONTENTS

The Year at a Glance vi
The Library of Congress 1986 1
Administering the Nation's Library 2
The Collections 5
Copyright 7
Housing the Collections 8
Accessing the Collections 9
Automation 13
Preserving the Library's Treasures 14
Serving the Congress 18
Providing Legal Information 19
National Services 20
Visitors to the Library 21
That All May Read 24
Bringing the Collections to Life 25
Documenting Our Heritage 28
Year of the Reader 29
Publishing 30

## The Year at a Glance

**In fiscal 1986 the Library of Congress:**

- Welcomed 2,309,303 library users and visitors
- Had a total of 84,694,819 items in its collections, including—
  - 14,045,520 books in the classified collections
  - 8,472,541 nonclassified books, pamphlets, technical reports, and other printed materials
  - 3,699,260 musical works
  - 1,149,065 recorded disks, tapes, and audio materials in other formats
  - 36,175,568 manuscripts
  - 3,862,328 maps
  - 6,653,286 microfiche, microfilms, and micro-opaques
  - 10,637,251 motion pictures, photographs, posters, prints, drawings, videotapes, and other visual materials
- Acquired 1,028,331 items for the collections
- Prepared 941 bibliographies containing a total of 131,082 entries
- Aided scholars and researchers by circulating 3,176,956 volumes for use within the Library
- Completed full-level cataloging of 190,857 titles
- Answered 1,165,458 inquiries in person, 147,165 by mail, and 524,859 by telephone through reference specialists
- Completed 433,666 research assignments for the Congress through the Congressional Research Service
- Held 465 different events for the public and for special audiences at the Library
- Circulated 19,885,800 disc, cassette, and braille items to a blind and physically handicapped readership of 682,500
- Had a total of over 12.5 million records in computer databases, accessible to the public through 65 computer terminals at various locations in the Library
- Employed a staff of 5,234 employees
- Operated on a budget of $210,522,000 from the Congress in direct appropriations, $10,614,000 in fees from the Cataloging Distribution Service and Copyright Office, and $7,419,000 in obligations from gift and trust funds.

## The Library of Congress 1986

One of the highlights of the Library's year was the appointment of the nation's first Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, Robert Penn Warren. The title of "Poet Laureate" was added to the long-standing title of "Consultant in Poetry" through an act of Congress and will be given to the person named by the Librarian for each one- or two-year term.

A veteran of a previous term as Consultant in Poetry (1944-45) and of numerous readings at the Library, Mr. Warren, twice a Pulitzer Prize winner (for both prose and poetry), was appointed by Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin in February and made his first visit to the Library in September. The press, which had interviewed, photographed, and praised him in hundreds of stories since his appointment, crowded into the Library's Poetry Office on October 6 for yet another question-and-answer session. The forthright Mr. Warren responded briskly and honestly, prompting the journalists to choose their words with great care.

The first readings ever presented at the Library of Congress were held in November 1897, in the newly designated Reading Room for the Blind. One of the first readers was Paul Laurence Dunbar, an Afro-American writer who was also a member of the Library staff. The Library had just opened the doors of its first building, now called the Thomas Jefferson Building. The Library itself dated back to 1800 and had previously been located in the Capitol. The first Librarian of Congress, John J. Beckley, was appointed by President Jefferson in 1802 and was paid "a sum not exceeding two dollars" a day.

Today the Library has grown to three buildings on Capitol Hill—the John Adams Building was opened to the public in 1937 and the James Madison Memorial Building in 1980—with additional leased space for the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped on Taylor Street in northwest Washington, for the Federal Research Division at the Washington Navy Yard Annex, and for the Procurement and Supply Division offices in Landover, Maryland. There are also overseas offices in Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kenya, and Pakistan. A facility for preservation of film is located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

The Library of Congress is now the largest library in the world, and its collections are used by scholars from more than a hundred countries. Although the Library's primary mission is to serve the Congress, its collections were opened to the public as early as the 1830s. In 1849 it was

*Lonnie Taylor of Library Support Services halts his electric riding tram in the tunnel to give directions to Dr. Victoria Schuck, a scholar doing research at the Library.*

reported in the House of Commons in London that the Library of Congress "is free to all the world," that any "native of the United States of any class" may walk right in. It remains one of the most open of national libraries, and its activities are as varied as its collections. In the following pages some of the highlights of the past year are reported.

Since the Library is supported by public money and is accountable to the Congress and the nation, the Librarian of Congress annually issues a detailed report of activities and expenditures. For those wishing to know more about the Library, the full report may be obtained from the U.S. Government Printing Office.

## Administering the Nation's Library

The Library began the year with a budget that had been cut from $238.5 million in fiscal 1985 to $230 million for fiscal 1986. Great efforts were made by all department heads to curtail hiring, travel, purchases, and other expenses without cutting services. Then in February the first announcement was issued to all staff members outlining measures that

would have to be taken as a result of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-177), the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act. The new legislation reduced the Library's already curtailed appropriations by an additional 4.3 percent as a result of the presidential sequestration order. That second cut to the Library's budget resulted in a 1986 appropriation that was $18.3 million below the total for 1985.

On February 20 the Librarian appeared before the Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations of the U.S. House of Representatives and made an exceptionally strong statement regarding curtailment of LC services, e.g., acquisitions, cataloging, and evening and weekend reading room hours. Stating that the Library had been singled out for a double dose of cuts, he characterized the consequences as "disastrous" for the Congress, the nation, and the world of learning. Reminding the committee that 1987 would mark the bicentenary of the opening of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, he said "historians will look with amazement and incredulity at a nation that could once afford to build grand structures bearing the names of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Madison—all lovers and champions of knowledge—yet decided it could no longer afford to acquire as effectively and abundantly as possible the current sources of knowledge. It would be a historic irony—the only analogy I can think of is the burning of the ancient Library of Alexandria in Egypt—if the Congress should choose this anniversary to direct and promote the disintegration of this great institution."

Dr. Boorstin's words were reprinted in full by magazines and newspapers and inspired numerous editorials and letters to editors throughout the country.

The most surprising reaction to the necessary budget cuts was the series of reader demonstrations that began on March 10. When the Main Reading Room was scheduled to be closed at 5:30 P.M., some one hundred persons refused to leave after the closing announcement was made by a Library staff member. A group calling itself "Books Not Bombs" had organized protests which took the form of after-hours sit-ins in the reading room and speech-making, much of it political in nature. On the third evening of protests, warnings were given that further sit-ins in the reading room would be considered trespassing and arrests would be made. Despite the warning, some protesters provoked arrest, and the demonstrations continued outside the building on the Neptune Plaza for several more days.

When the Urgent Supplemental Appropriations Bill for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1986, was signed into law by the President on July 2, it contained $876,000 for the Library. This legislative measure,

proposed by Sen. Robert Byrd, partially restored funds that had been specifically earmarked for the acquisition of books and other library materials ($500,000), cataloging ($120,000), deck attendants ($135,000), and reading room personnel ($112,000). The Congress directed that these funds be used to reopen the Library during evening and weekend hours, which was done on July 10.

At the end of the fiscal year, Congress had not completed action on its regular appropriations bill. The conference report on the Legislative

Lack of funding shortens library hours
There's awfully
his budg
Says Jesse Jackson: "Books Not Bombs."
aid cut
In Our Opinion
New reductions hurt authenic national treasure
hundreds of cutbacks
The sorry legacy of Gramm-Rudman
William R. Gordon
Libraries in peril
Cuts threaten national treasure
Budget sour note
Don't turn down library lights
Library of Congress faces serious cuts
Nation's library deserves same level of funding
Library of Congress patrons unite!
Curtailed hours
Library of Congress will be affected
Our National Library is in Peril
Library of Congress fund cut a disaster

*Newspaper and magazine clippings from across the country reflect the national interest in budget cuts at the Library of Congress.*



11 BEST COPY AVAILABLE

*To celebrate NBC's donating 20,000 early television programs to the Library, television stars gathered in the Dirksen Senate Office Building on April 29. Pictured above are (left to right) Lorne Greene, Steve Allen, Sid Caesar, Milton Berle, Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin, Jayne Meadows, and Grant Tinker, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of NBC.*

Branch Appropriations bill was incorporated into an omnibus continuing resolution to fund the government through the entire 1987 fiscal year. Public Law 99-500, making continuing appropriations for fiscal 1987, was signed by the President on October 18 and provided funds for the operation of the Library for fiscal 1987. The act provided a total appropriation of $235.4 million, including the Congressional Research Service. A separate bill (H.R. 4545) had been introduced in the House in April authorizing appropriations for the American Folklife Center for fiscal years 1987, 1988, and 1989. The bill, passed by both the House and the Senate, approved by the President, and signed into law in October, authorized a total of $2.76 million to the center.

## The Collections

The number of items in the Library's collections increased to almost 85 million this fiscal year. Acquisition policies were refined and purchases of publications of secondary importance were minimized to allow continued receipt of research materials of vital interest. A massive serial review project continued throughout the year. Efforts were made to eliminate all but a few representative samples of foreign popular periodicals. Increased reliance was placed on receiving serials through exchange, gift, and

copyright. At year's end, the number of current periodical subscriptions recommended for cancellation stood at approximately two thousand, with an estimated annual savings of $214,375.

The Preservation Policy Committee submitted recommendations for systematic deacidification of the massive retrospective classified collections. The committee suggested that those classes of greatest importance to the Library's overall mission be included in the earliest phases of the program.

The Collections Development Office worked closely with the National Preservation Program Office and the divisions of Research Services to arrange for the Library's participation in two Research Libraries Group preservation projects: Americana imprints, 1876-1920, and Chinese monographs and serials of the early twentieth century.

A number of significant gifts were added to the collections this year. The National Broadcasting Company presented its entire collection of some twenty thousand early television programs. The Geography and Map Division received the first fire insurance atlas of London, produced in the 1790s. The Rare Book and Special Collections Division was given a rare book of verse by Paul Laurence Dunbar entitled *Majors and Minors*, printed in 1896. The division also acquired the Paul Avrich Collection, a major addition to its Anarchism and Radical Pamphlet collections. A microfilm exchange negotiated in August 1985 with the Biblioteca Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, led to the receipt of 157 reels of microfilm of four Brazilian periodicals. The Library also added a rare work on seventeenth-century technology, G. Branca's *Le Machine* (Rome, 1629). The Law Library added two works by Gaspard Thaumas de la Thaumassiere, bound together: *Decisions sur les coutumes de Berry: Livres V et VI* and *Anciens arrets du Parlement, concernant le Berry... communiques par Vyon d'Heroval* (Bourges, M. Levez, 1675). It also acquired a rare first French edition of *Blackstone's Commentaries* (1776). The books were acquired through the American Bar Association Rare Book Fund.

Sharply reduced funds for purchase of library materials by the Order Division necessitated reductions in the allotments for noncurrent materials and subscriptions. There were decreases in the number of U.S. Government publications received by the Library because of cuts in government spending, although the exchanges with other countries increased. Procedures for the processing of new serial titles selected by the field directors of the Overseas Operations Division were streamlined. Automation of field offices continued, and by the end of the year all were equipped with personal computers. A contract was awarded for the application of microcomputers to the acquisitions process at the New Delhi office.

*Abdul Suchud, Guus A. Kamaril, and Suwoto bin Darso of the Library's office in Jakarta, Indonesia, were honored for twenty years of service at the annual awards ceremony, held at the embassy on August 21. They are pictured here with Ambassador John H. Holdridge.*

## Copyright

The Copyright Office is a major source of new materials for the Library's collections. Since 1870 authors have been required to submit copies of their works as a part of the process of registering them for copyright protection. As a result, a steady stream of books, music, plays, motion pictures, and all manner of other created works have come to the Library. More than half a million of these works are received each year, and thousands are selected for the Library's general collections.

The Copyright Office also evolves and implements regulations relating to copyright and advises the Congress on copyright matters and new technologies. This year a series of consultations took place between the office and various library associations, publishers, authors, and other interested parties preliminary to the library photocopying report due to Congress in January 1988. Under the 1976 Copyright Act, the Register of Copyrights is required to report to Congress at five-year intervals on

the extent to which the act's permission for libraries to photocopy is achieving a balance between the "rights of creators and the needs of users."

The Copyright Office was host to a number of international visitors this year, including a delegation from the People's Republic of China that spent three weeks in May touring the office, hearing lectures from experts within and outside the office, and meeting with publishers in New York. The Register of Copyrights and the general counsel represented the Copyright Office at a meeting of the World Intellectual Property Association in Geneva that focused on drafting an international treaty to offer protection for integrated circuits. The office was also represented on a negotiating team that worked out the details of a new Korean copyright law that will offer protection to U.S. intellectual property.

A joint project of the Copyright Office and the Science and Technology Division resulted in the receipt of material of considerable value. Numerous microfilm sets were acquired, the most notable being those from the Schomburg Clipping File, University Publications of America, and the History of Nursing. Copyright's Deposits and Acquisitions Division processed ninety-nine Motion Picture Agreements during the second half of the year, three times the number processed last year and the highest annual number ever processed. The Library received 670 titles in response to recalls under the agreement.

## Housing the Collections

Renovation of the Thomas Jefferson Building and the John Adams Building, for which funds had been allocated to the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) in fiscal 1983, continued on schedule. A construction trailer was located on the grounds of the Library to serve as project headquarters, and exterior fencing was erected outside both buildings to create space for materials and staging. Actual Phase I construction work began on September 30, 1986. The AOC completed all necessary demolition and cleanup work, and the Library moved offices from half of each building to other quarters for the duration of the renovation.

A new building lease was signed at the Taylor Street Annex and a schedule for renovation at that site was established by the General Services Administration (GSA). Construction work was scheduled to begin early in 1987. Late in fiscal 1986, GSA advised the Library that it would have to assume operational and lease management responsibility for the Landover and Taylor Street annexes from GSA.

Cold-storage vaults that encompass 10,735 square feet of space at Landover Center Annex were completed in time to accommodate the newly acquired NBC television collection. The vaults are capable of operating at temperatures down to 34 degrees Fahrenheit.

In March the Library Environment Resources Office (LERO), which oversees the Library's space and coordinates with the AOC, created INFO LERO, a system that allows users to display information online regarding current moves and move schedules, the status of ongoing space projects, and building space statistics. As part of the Automated Systems Office's Information Screen Facility, INFO LERO will also provide for issuing news bulletins and schedules of the status of the renovation/restoration project.

The Federal Research Division rearranged its space at the Navy Yard Annex in southeast Washington, and the Duke Street Annex in Alexandria, Virginia, was vacated and relinquished to GSA, saving leasing costs.

*On June 9 Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin received one of Japan's highest decorations, the Order of the Sacred Treasure, First Class, for his contributions to the development of the National Diet Library of Japan and to the promotion of academic and cultural exchanges between Japan and the United States. The award was presented in a ceremony at the Japanese Embassy by the Ambassador, Nobuo Matsunaga, shown here with Dr. Boorstin, Mrs. Matsunaga, and Mrs. Boorstin.*

## Accessing the Collections

To ensure optimum access to the LC collections, the Library's processing procedures continue to be refined and shared with other libraries worldwide. However, this year's budget constraints resulted in a drop in cataloging of approximately 8 percent. Processing Services continued to do strategic planning, examine operations, set new priorities, and restruc-

*Phoebe Hsu, a reader in the Social Sciences Reading Room, receives assistance from Bernard Williams.*

ture the way the department carries out its mission with reduced funds. The strategic planning process has been led by a planning group headed by the Assistant Librarian for Processing Services and including the directors of acquisitions and overseas operations, bibliographic products and services, and cataloging, as well as the executive officer and assistant executive officer.

Descriptive cataloging in the Descriptive Cataloging Division and Shared Cataloging Division showed a continuing increase in titles cataloged per hour. Output continued to keep pace with receipts, although backlogs were beginning to accumulate in some areas. Arabic cataloging suffered most heavily, owing to the loss of two Arabic-language catalogers. The Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Project, in which several cataloging divisions participate, produced 11,420 titles in all three languages.

Notable projects carried out by the descriptive cataloging staff included: the NUC (National Union Catalog) Project, initiated in fiscal 1985 to identify bibliographic records designated as MARC records but missing in the online database; the CIP (Cataloging in Publication) Upgrade Project, which involves upgrading to full records some six thousand CIP bibliographic records because the publishers failed to submit published books for the items; and Overseas Cataloging, which assigned a greater share of full cataloging duties to the New Delhi Cataloging Project. Primary training of the New Delhi staff for the project is provided by the South Asian Languages Section of the Descriptive Cataloging Division.

The Name Authority Cooperative (NACO) Project continued to flourish. Membership in the project rose to forty-one, with new members including the University of Maryland, University of Pittsburgh, University of California/San Diego, Ohio State University, and Center for Research Libraries.

The Shared Cataloging Division staff increased its cataloging output by 9.5 percent and its productivity by 8 percent. The division investigated the feasibility of using bibliographic records created by other institutions and worked with the University of Illinois in a special Slavic publications projects under which Illinois is creating bibliographic records for Slavic-language titles published by selected Soviet publishers.

The Subject Cataloging Division sent the fifth edition of *Class R, Medicine* and an expanded edition of the *LC Classification Outline* for publication in August. The 1985 annual supplement to *LC Subject Headings* was published in August. Since the implementation of the online subject authority system, the weekly lists of tentative subject headings are now produced from the online file. The subject cataloging arrearage had declined by 10,000 pieces by year's end.

A major new focus for the MARC Editorial Division has been the development of online input and update to the PREMARC file.

The Automation Planning and Liaison Office worked with users in Processing Services and the Automated Systems Office to develop several new automated systems. In addition, the office coordinated the acquisition of microcomputers used in Processing Services, selected standard software packages, trained staff in the use of the hardware and software, and chaired both a microcomputer users group and the department's office automation committee.

*Chi Wang (right), head of the Chinese and Korean Section, discusses material from the Library's collection of 1,200 Chinese newspapers with David Shu.*

These and other Processing Services divisions and offices achieved increases in cataloging productivity for nearly every type of material processed. The department adjusted the rate of acquisitions to fit the depressed buying power of the U.S. dollar overseas and reductions in appropriations for the purchase of books, initiated changes in the marketing of products and services, and took steps to automate several of the bibliographic catalogs.

The Cataloging Distribution Service reorganized for more efficient service, reducing six sections to four: Customer Services, Computer Applications, Fiscal, and Distribution. New procedures were developed for review of its products and services and for development of new products. New publications were issued in bright, attractive formats, and products and services were exhibited at the Association of College and Research Libraries Conference and at the American Library Association Conference.

The Network Advisory Committee, which has been a primary outreach concern of the Library of Congress, met in Washington in July to discuss issues relating to the implementation of a common vision of nationwide networking. Four new Network Planning Papers were pub-

*An agreement between the Library and the District of Columbia Department of Employment Services provided short-term work and training experiences for 37 youths. Participants in the program received letters of appreciation from Roberta L. Phillips of the Library's Affirmative Action Office.*

lished by the Library: *The Library of Congress Network Advisory Committee: Its First Decade; Key Issues in the Networking Field Today; Toward a Common Vision in Library Networking;* and *The CONSER Project: Recommendations for the Future.*

The Linked Systems Project/Standard Network Interconnection and the Network Development and MARC Standards Office forged ahead with plans and implementation that would eventually result in making information in the nation's leading libraries more readily available.

## Automation

It is fair to say that without automation the work of the Library of Congress, as well as that of most other research libraries the world over, would come to a standstill. It is remarkable that most materials in the Library can be served to readers within an hour, though more than 12.5 million records are in computer databases in the Library, in addition to conventional card catalogs and indexes. The Automated Systems Office (ASO) also operates one of the largest computerized information service centers in the world.

The Computer Service Center continued to upgrade the Library's hardware, providing better access to the collections by Library users and more effective links to other libraries for the exchange of bibliographic information, as well as increasing the reliability and reducing the run time of many long-running batch jobs.

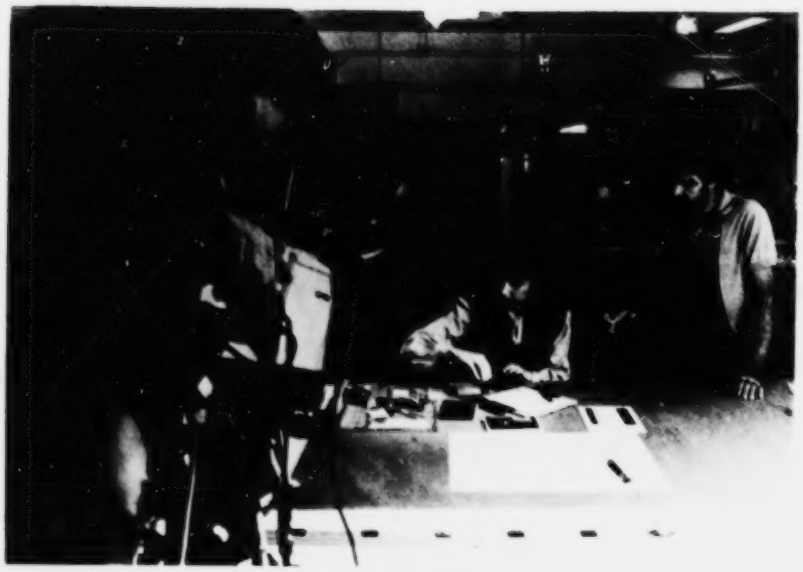
The digital optical disk ("print") retrieval system opened in January 1986, and questionnaires to determine user response were made available at optical disk terminals in four reading rooms. An analysis of data on the use of the machines was to be completed in fiscal 1987. In the nonprint portion of the program, ASO staff members, working with Prints and Photographs Division staff, reviewed findings of a survey of patrons on the use of videodisks. Staff members also compiled the results of a survey of videodisk users in the Motion Picture and Television Reading Room. Both surveys indicated enthusiastic appreciation of the videodisk as a uniquely effective finding aid for pictorial collections. The videodisks made possible storage of as many as 50,000 images in all formats—from glass-plate negatives to oversized posters. The user can browse the collections at his own speed and quickly access specific requests. Work has begun on testing of optical disk platters to determine the effects of temperature and humidity. The results should provide valuable new criteria for determining when information needs to be transferred to a new disk.

*During a special ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 23, William J. Welsh officially opened the print project of the Optical Disk Pilot Program to the public in the Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room.*

Not only the Library of Congress but a thousand other participants benefit from the automation activities of the Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC), which marked its twenty-first year of operation in fiscal 1986. By the end of the year, FEDLINK—FLICC's operating network—had become the largest library network in the nation in terms of both membership/participants and dollars of service (approximately $40.5 million), retaining its status as the only nationwide library network. Heavy interest in FEDLINK's operation was reflected in the steady stream of visitors to the FLICC/FEDLINK Microcomputer Demonstration Center, among them representatives from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the U.S. Postal Service, the Department of Energy, the U.S. Information Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

## Preserving the Library's Treasures

Since the annual loss of the Library's books through deterioration is estimated to be as high as 77,000 volumes, a great deal of research and effort has been devoted to preservation methodologies. Book paper self-destructs because acid used in the papermaking process to break down wood fibers weakens the paper itself after 25-100 years and eventu-



*In late September, a production crew from the PBS television series "Reading Rainbow" visited the Library to tape segments for the show. Here Barbara Meier-James and Tom Albro of the Conservation Office demonstrate the care that goes into the preservation of the Library's rare documents, books, and manuscripts.*

*A number of delegates to the Chicago meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions visited the Library en route to the meeting. Here some members of the group are shown with Peter Sparks, Director for Preservation (third from left).*

ally causes it to crumble to dust. Pages can be treated on an individual basis, as is done in the Library's conservation lab when unique treasures are involved, but the Library has also developed a process for treating large quantities of its books and other materials at a single time, using diethyl zinc (DEZ) gas that restores the alkaline content to the paper and retards embrittlement. Years of planning and testing will culminate in the operation of a Mass Book Deacidification Facility at Fort Detrick, Maryland, where some 15,000 books can be processed every five days. Two incidents involving fires during testing of the engineering and technical process this year in pilot facilities at the Goddard Space Flight Center resulted in a delay in implementing plans. Both the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Library conducted extensive reviews of the project. The Library then engaged Texas Alkyls, Inc., a chemical engineering firm, to undertake further studies and redesign a pilot facility. Although the Library's use will be a new application for DEZ, the chemical is already used by industry in the manufacture of plastics. Its application in mass book deacidification offers the best hope of resolving the challenge of preserving the Library's paper materials of all varieties.

The Library of Congress offered support this year to other libraries

*A new method of preserving old negative jackets in the Prints and Photographs Division has dramatically improved the speed with which crumbling and soiled archival records may be replaced. Using a Minolta photocopier to transfer caption information, this team can now rejacket 230 negatives in one hour and also produce 230 shelflist cards, as compared to rejacketing 25 negatives per hour in the past. Pictured are Michael Castello, Mary Wasserman, and Inez McDermott.*

*When microphotographer Inez Robinson found two $50 gold certificates in an old Russian-language book she was microfilming, she turned them in to her supervisor but was ultimately rewarded with her find, worth considerably more than face value. Shown above are Clemon Hammie and Robert A. Lincoln of the General Counsel's Office, Ms. Robinson, Photoduplication Service Chief Norman J. Shaffer, and Patricia Simms, supervisor.*

that faced severe problems involving losses to their collections. A Library of Congress conservation officer was among a group of specialists to advise the Los Angeles Public Library following the first of two disastrous fires in April. With the aid of a thousand volunteers, and using techniques described in the Library's booklet *Procedures for Salvage of Water-Damaged Library Materials*, the Los Angeles library was able to treat 700,000 water-damaged books within a week through freeze-drying.

Deputy Librarian of Congress William J. Welsh chaired an international conference on preservation in Vienna in April. More than a hundred national library directors and experts in preservation participated.

The Photoduplication Service makes prints to order of materials in the Library's collections and maintains the coin-operated copying machines in the reading rooms. Less well-known is the extent of its preservation work for the Library itself and for other libraries. This year a collection of Polish maps which required more than a thousand fiche was filmed for the Library, and work was begun on a three thousand-plus set of similar maps from Austria-Hungary. Work was also begun on a long-term project to film all of the maps and charts listed in *Maps and Charts of North America and the West Indies, 1750-1789* (Library of Congress, 1981). With funding from the American Trust for the British Library, the Photoduplication Service is engaged in two microfilming projects for the British Library. American publications that were damaged or destroyed by bombing during World War II are being replaced with microfilms of copies in the Library of Congress collections, and significant titles that are missing in specific subject areas in the British Library's collections are being supplied on microfilm. With support from members of the Western Association of Map Librarians, and in coopera-

tion with the Library's Geography and Map Division, the service reproduced two important collections of French Revolutionary maps. The service also issued circulars on research materials recently filmed and of interest to research institutions.

## Serving the Congress

In 1800 Congress appropriated the sum of $5,000 to purchase books for the newly established Library of Congress. An order was placed with the London firm of Cadell & Davies, and the next year 152 works in 740 volumes, as well as three maps, were received and stored in the office of the Secretary of the Senate. A joint congressional committee was appointed to oversee the Library, which was subsequently housed in a room that had been occupied by the House of Representatives during the last session of the Sixth Congress.

Now, in reviewing activities during the last session of the Ninety-ninth Congress, it can be reported that the library which was founded to assist the nation's lawmakers is still living up to its responsibilities. Although all of the LC collections are used in replying to requests from the Congress, it is the specific task of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to respond to inquiries from Members and congressional staff. The workload amounts to some half a million inquiries a year. This year the drug bill, the farm crisis, the immigration bill, sanctions against South Africa, the budget, the effects of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, tax reform, judicial nominations, impeachment of a sitting judge, and gun control were among the topics of concern to the Congress. An average of almost two thousand inquiries came in each day in August, normally a slow month. CRS responses took a variety of forms, including substantial reports covering such topics as segregation and discrimination in rental housing, private pension plan standards, military benefits for former spouses, public missile proliferation potential in the Third World, and real earnings in America, 1947-85.

Seventy-three new titles were added in the Issue Briefs format, including space launch options after the Challenger space shuttle accident, changes in the presidential nomination process, tort reform and liability insurance, federal Indian education programs, budgetary issues surrounding the strategic defense initiative (SDI), terrorist incidents involving U.S. citizens or property (1981-86), commercial farm banks and their borrowers, redesign of the U.S. currency, and the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

Info Packs, which provide Members of Congress and their staffs with up-to-date information on various topics, continued to be quite

*Maurvene Williams, collections development officer, Congressional Research Service, checks the main course in preparation for the 1985 LC-WRA Annual Cooking Club Christmas Luncheon.*

popular. More than a hundred thousand were distributed during the year, and the demand for certain packets reflected the most important legislative issues: tax reform, Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, Nicaragua, liability insurance, South Africa, drug abuse, and Central America.

Information was made available not only in print but through databases and microfiche.

CRS staff expertise was also applied to institutes, seminars, and briefings for a total of some four thousand Members of Congress and congressional staff. In addition, congressional interns were briefed and noncongressional visitors came in record numbers. Among the latter were more than three hundred members of parliaments and parliamentary librarians, as well as cabinet-level officials of foreign governments and librarians from research, academic, federal, state, and local libraries nationwide.

Joseph E. Ross was named Director of CRS at the end of March. He had served as acting director for three months before his appointment and, before that, had headed CRS's American Law Division. Mr. Ross joined CRS in 1972, after completing an eighteen-year career as a judge advocate with the U.S. Navy. Earlier, he served with the U.S. Department of Justice.

## Providing Legal Information

The Law Library houses the world's largest and most comprehensive collections of foreign, international, and comparative law. By the end of the fiscal year, its holdings comprised some two and a half million volumes. While the Law Library is vitally concerned with collecting research materials to provide answers to questions about the laws of some two hundred jurisdictions, it is also interested in using these materials to

*Joanne Zellers (left), African specialist, and Beverly Gray, head of the African Section, discuss some recent acquisitions.*

produce publications to assist others in using Law Library resources or in helping to shed a legal light on current social, political, and economic problems.

The topics of publications written this year by Law Library staff ranged from employee inventions in various European countries to a four-nation comparison of the legal response of foreign bank operations in Switzerland. Staff members also shared their unique resources by participating in national and international conferences and meetings. During the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries, held in June in Washington, D.C., the Law Library sponsored a program on African legal systems and an institute entitled "Our Nation's Resources." It also hosted a reception in conjunction with the opening of an exhibit of legal classics in the reading room. During the convention *Slavery in the Courtroom,* an annotated bibliography compiled by Paul Finkelman under the Law Library's sponsorship, received the association's Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographic Award.

## National Services

The Library welcomed Ruth Ann Stewart as Assistant Librarian for National Programs in April. As one of the Library's top management officials, Ms. Stewart oversees the American Folklife Center, Children's Literature Center, Educational Liaison Office, Exhibits Office, Federal Library and Information Center Committee, Information Office, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and Publishing Office. Ms. Stewart was previously Associate Director for

External Services at the New York Public Library, where she had been a member of the management staff since 1970. Her earlier professional experience included positions at the Macmillan Company and at Columbia University.

## Visitors to the Library

A highlight of the Library's year was the visit on November 11 of Prince Charles of Great Britain, prompted by his desire to know more about the U. S. Constitution and how the document had served over two centuries. The heir to the British throne met with the Librarian of Congress, the Chief Justice of the United States, two Members of Congress, and several

*Prince Charles of Great Britain visited the Library on November 11 for a discussion of the drafting of the American Constitution with James H. Hutson (left), Chief of the Manuscript Division, Chief Justice Warren Burger, and Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin.*

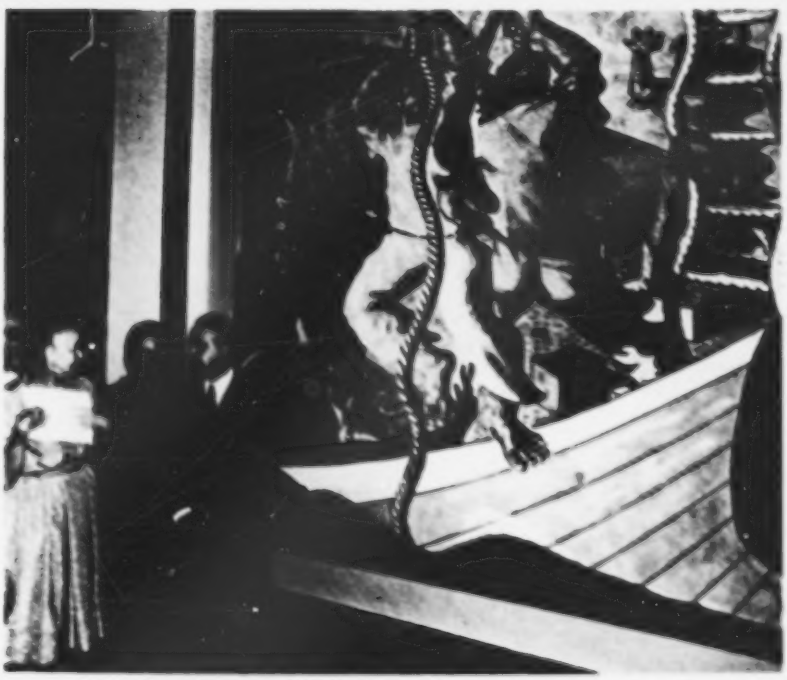
constitutional historians for more than an hour. Many of the original documents relating to the Constitution were available for perusal during the discussion. Prince Charles was also interested in seeing pictures of earlier visits to the Library by his parents and by his grandmother, together with a letter of condolence on the death of President Lincoln

written by Queen Victoria. With more than a hundred representatives of the press on hand for the occasion, the Prince of Wales greeted various members of the public as he walked across the Neptune Plaza and expressed personal greetings to Library staff members assembled in the Great Hall.

The Visitors' Center in the Thomas Jefferson Building continues to provide information and personal service for thousands of visitors annually. The orientation theater screens the slide-sound presentation "America's Library" hourly, following which personally guided tours are offered. More than fifty thousand people, including many special visitors, were given tours under the direction of the Educational Liaison Office.

Public and private events which attracted many new friends for the Library were arranged by the Special Events Office. The office organized 120 events during the year, coordinating space, furnishings and equipment, staffing, and catering.

The sales and information counters set new records of visitors



*President José Sarney Costa of Brazil visited the Library on September 11 as part of a state visit to the United States. Here Mary Ellis Kahler (left) of the Hispanic Division discusses the Library's murals by Brazilian painter Cândido Portinari with Mrs. Sarney and the President.*

*Irina Shakhnlova, Director of the State Literary Museum in Moscow, and Alexander Sidorin, Deputy Minister of Culture of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, were welcomed to the Library on June 15 by David H. Kraus, Acting Chief of the European Division, Donald C. Curran, Associate Librarian of Congress, and John C. Broderick, Assistant Librarian for Research Services.*

served. This year Library of Congress Information Volunteers were recruited from among the Library's retirees to answer questions from visitors at special desks in the Jefferson and Madison buildings.

As a further aid to visitors, the Information Office produced a videotaped "Tour of the Library of Congress" to provide an opportunity for viewers to see not only the public areas of the Library but also some of the stacks, preservation laboratories, and vault areas which are off-limits to visitors. Many of the Library's treasures are also shown. The tape was selected by the Book-of-the-Month Club for distribution in the spring of 1987.

Television viewers across the nation also learned more about the Library through one-minute programs called "American Treasury" which were aired by CBS Television. The daily series, in its second year, relates interesting facts documented by graphics found in the Library, using the tag line "It's a fact in the Library of Congress!"

## That All May Read

With origins in the Library that go back to the opening of the Thomas Jefferson Building in 1897, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is congressionally mandated to serve its special group of readers. It not only publishes a wide variety of materials but distributes them free of charge through sixty-nine library centers throughout the country, serving a readership of 682,500 this year. It has pioneered in producing tape players and other equipment which is also circulated without charge to qualified readers. In addition to producing books and magazines in several formats as well as machines, NLS/BPH continually reaches out to identify potential readers through public-service television and radio spots and studies carried out nationwide.

*A major national effort to provide broader and better library services to children was announced by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The effort will be spearheaded by Doreen Lauer (right), assistant head of the NLS/BPH Consumer Relations Section, pictured with Sybille A. Jagusch, chief of the Children's Literature Center.*

The service also works with organizations in other countries. "Quality Effort—Quality Service" was the theme of the 1986 Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals, held in Cincinnati, Ohio, by NLS/BPH in cooperation with the National Library of Canada. Topics discussed included automation planning and implementation and services for children. The assistant director of

*Sen. Edward M. Kennedy took time out from his busy schedule on June 19 to listen to several Irish tunes and say a few words to the audience gathered for a concert by the Irish Traditions, one of a series of free noontime events sponsored by the American Folklife Center.*

NLS/BPH also participated in the 52nd Annual Council and General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions in Tokyo, Japan. Information was exchanged with specialists in British Columbia, Texas, and Tennessee, where the director of the service presented keynote speeches on topics of mutual concern. One immediate challenge is the development of materials for computer use by the blind.

## Bringing the Collections to Life

To many Washingtonians, as well as to thousands of others who visit the Nation's Capital annually, the Library of Congress is the place where they saw the Gutenberg Bible, a major exhibit, or a rare old film or heard the incomparable music of the Juilliard String Quartet. Perhaps they have sat on the steps overlooking the Neptune Plaza to enjoy outdoor concerts arranged by the American Folklife Center or attended a symposium or lecture highlighting a particular topic or writer. They may have met their favorite poets or fiction writers after a reading in the Coolidge Auditorium. Not content merely to house its collections and serve its readers, the

*Author William Golding read selections of his work at the Library on November 26.*

Library shares its wealth with the public in a variety of additional ways.

Many public programs are sponsored by the Music Division, the Poetry Office, and the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division, all of which fall under the Library's Research Services Department. The department itself comprises eighteen divisions whose responsibilities include area studies, general reference, preservation, and special collections. The Performing Arts Library at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is also a part of the department.

Since the opening of the Coolidge Auditorium in 1925, the Library has presented some of the world's best chamber music. It has, in fact, been credited with being instrumental in the recent resurgence of chamber music as a popular art form. This year the history of the Library's musical contributions was documented by a television special called "The Unquiet Library," which was aired by the Public Broadcasting System. The program was the recipient of a national Clio award for excellence.

More than sixty free concerts were held at the Library during fiscal 1986, including the Festival of American Chamber Music, the Summer Chamber Festival, and part of the Franz Liszt Centennial Celebration. The Library reached an agreement with WGMS under which that radio station will resume local broadcasting of the Library's concerts. The number of stations carrying the concerts reached seventy-seven in 1986, more than double last year's total. Interviews with specialists from all departments of the Library will be broadcast during concert intermissions.

The fall and winter literary season was an unusually strong one, featuring a program celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Poetry Society of America, a symposium on the 150th anniversary of Toqueville's

*Democracy in America*, and appearances by writer and radio personality Garrison Keillor, writer William Golding, and British actor Alex McCowen as Rudyard Kipling. The Keillor evening was videotaped by WETA, the Public Broadcasting System's local station, for release nationwide. Literary programs offered in the spring included "An Evening of Chicano Poetry," James Baldwin reading from his work, and Consultant in Poetry Gwendolyn Brooks describing her year as consultant. Miss Brook's year was a very active one in which she held many sessions with young people, both at their schools and at the Library. She was interviewed extensively and spoke at a wide variety of functions.

The Library's motion picture collections were featured through screenings for the public in the Mary Pickford Theater. A reservation plan was implemented for the small theater, which showed such favorites as a series based on the writings of Charles Dickens, Shakespeare on film and television, Japanese films from the 1930s and 1940s, and an illustrated lecture on the film music of George Gershwin.

The Children's Literature Center, a unit of the National Programs Department, organized a poetry celebration in May at which Gwendolyn Brooks read and discussed poetry with a group of Washington schoolchildren. A number of bibliographic surveys of children's books in the Library's collections are being conducted under the direction of the Children's Literature Center. Although the center is one of the smallest divisions in the Library, its work with writers, researchers, and librarians from many countries is highly acclaimed.

Hispanic Heritage Week and Black History Week were both occasions for special observances that were well attended by staff and guests. Franklin Chang-Diaz, astronaut and Freedom Medal winner, was the featured speaker during the Hispanic celebration. Concerts, publications, and even a special menu at the Library cafeteria were also featured. The Employment Office, Affirmative Action Office, Women's Program Advisory Committee, American Folklife Center, Hispanic Division, and many others worked together to make the observances a success.

Other public programs celebrated the 400th anniversary of *La Galatea*, Cervantes's first novel, with a symposium and an exhibit. The Hispanic Division also cosponsored a symposium devoted to the work of Argentinian writer Ernesto Sabato and a symposium on Atlantic port cities, held in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University and also the occasion for a major exhibit of maps and charts.

An extensive exhibits program complemented the activities of every department. Besides those already mentioned, the Exhibits Office mounted exhibitions covering such areas as Charles Dickens and the performing arts, *Porgy and Bess* materials in the Gershwin collections, political art acquired through the Caroline and Erwin Swann Fund,

architectural photographs by Jack Boucher, the 43d White House Photographers Association award-winners, the Coronelli globes, and the 14th Annual Employees Art and Crafts Show. Two major exhibitions were "Riders on Earth Together: Expressions of Faith in the Middle East and Asia" and "Books in the Grand Tradition." In addition, eight exhibitions traveled to fourteen sites around the nation.

## Documenting Our Heritage

The American Folklife Center sponsored many activities in the yearlong observance of its tenth anniversary. The return of tape copies of early wax cylinder recordings to American Indian tribes among whom they had been recorded began the final phase of the recording project. A colloquy on folklife and university education brought together representatives from university folklore programs in the United States and Canada to discuss

*Thomas F. Betcher, traveling exhibits specialist, and Exhibits Officer William F. Miner discuss a project in their offices in the Adams Building.*

public-sector folklife efforts and explore the relationship between academic and public-sector folklife programs.

A tenth anniversary party for the Folklife Center was held on the Neptune Plaza and featured music of Armenia, bluegrass, and crafts demonstrations. Also marking the year were ten outdoor concerts, twice the usual number. Among the programs were music and dance of Senegal, a trio called the Irish Tradition, a Chinese music ensemble, Latin *salsa* music, gospel music, and a traditional Polish harvest celebration. Final work on field projects in the Pinelands region of New Jersey and in Utah was completed, and planning was begun for a project in Lowell, Massachusetts, to explore the living neighborhoods and ethnic cultures of a well-known mill town.

A two-sided videodisk entitled *The Ninety-Six: A Ranch in Northern Nevada* was issued, with an accompanying 84-page booklet.

The center also sponsored programs throughout the year relating to traditional holidays, plus a program on the folklore of the deaf and deaf culture.

## Year of the Reader

The Center for the Book, established in 1977 by Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin to encourage reading and "the flourishing of the book" adopted "1987—The Year of the Reader" as its tenth anniversary theme. The theme will also be used by several national and international organizations and by each of the Centers for the Book set up by state groups in Florida, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Oregon with encouragement from the center at the Library.

Supported primarily by private, tax-deductible contributions, the center has been involved in various ongoing national reading promotion projects. In October the Library and CBS Television honored 100 CBS personalities who have presented reading promotion messages for the "Read More About It" project. The spots, of which twenty are scheduled this year, offer lists of books suggested by the Library of Congress which would provide additional information on the topic of the televised special.

An exhibition called "A Nation of Readers," cosponsored with the American Library Association, featured prize-winning photographs of readers of all ages and in a surprisingly wide variety of circumstances.

Cap'n O.G. Readmore, a cartoon character created by ABC Television in cooperation with the center, was featured in a number of reading messages presented during family viewing hours.

NBC Television worked with the center to show spot announcements about the pleasure of reading presented by performers from NBC's top-rated programs. In addition, the network produced and distributed

*Eighth-grader Philip Davis of Costa Mesa, California, winner of* READ *magazine's fourth "Books Make a Difference" essay contest, visited the Library on April 15 and was presented with a copy of* Treasures of the Library of Congress *by Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin (left) while Ruth Ann Stewart, Assistant Librarian for National Programs, and Scott Ingram,* READ *magazine's Associate Editor, look on.*

10,000 copies of a poster guide promoting the project.

Lectures and seminars sponsored by the center this year included "The Book in 19th Century America," Book Studies in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe," "Collecting Children's Books" (with the Children's Literature Center), and a lecture by Robert Burchfield, editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

## Publishing

Materials of all kinds are published by various departments of the Library for their special audiences. This year Processing Services issued the 1984 descriptive volume and the 1980-84 index volume of the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections* and the 1985 supplement to *LC Subject Headings*. The *Dewey Decimal Classification for School Libraries: British and International Edition*, prepared by the Library, was published by Forest Press in cooperation with the School Library Association. The Catalog

ing Distribution Service published *Cataloging Rules for the Description of Looseleaf Publications*.

The Library's Publishing Office, which has responsibility for most of the publishing in the Library, was honored this fiscal year by the selection of three of its books for inclusion among the nineteen cited in the American Library Association's 1985 Notable Documents List. The Library's winners, selected from thousands of government publications, were *Historic America: Buildings, Structures, and Sites*; *Panoramic Maps of Cities in the United States and Canada*; and *Revolutionary America, 1763-1789: A Bibliography*. The inaugural issue of *Folklife Annual*, a major new publication, was the result of extended collaboration between the Publishing Office and the American Folklife Center.

The Publishing Office's tradition of producing major works that reveal the breadth of the Library's collections was reflected this year in *The Printer and the Pardoner: An Unrecorded Indulgence Printed by William Caxton for the Hospital of St. Mary Rouncival, Charing Cross*, by Paul Needham. This "intellectual detective story" received highly favorable comment in the press.

Other publications included a new volume from the Federal Cylinder Project, lectures and conference papers from the Library's poetry and literature series, Englehard Lectures on the Book, guides to Civil War manuscripts and to the Theodore Roosevelt Association Film Collection, the twelfth volume of *Letters of Delegates to Congress, 1774-1789*, and numerous other works about the Library and its collections, services, and programs.